

to help preach the gospel!" said Belle. "They're going to have a Mish'nary Concert over to our church, and I'm going to bring the ladies lots of flowers to do it with."

"That is a very good way to begin helping," said mamma. "Don't you know what somebody says about flowers? He calls them 'living preachers'—"

"Each cup a pulpit,
Every leaf a book."

A SPECIAL OFFER.

Why cannot the boys and girls do a little missionary work? If you get a yearly subscription to the EVANGELIST at \$1.50 cash, we will send you a beautiful book called Spring Blossoms. Or if you get us one at 75 cents to the end of the year, we will send you a nice little booklet of some other kind. Would you like to sell Stories of Jesus for us? They sell at 10 cents and we will pay you well for selling them.

CHARLIE'S CRUSTS.

Charlie is not a generous boy, he likes to keep everything that he gets. One day in Sunday-school his teacher was explaining the text, "Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days." She told her boys that it meant that we must give freely, not expecting to be "paid back" right away.

"Now, Charlie, said she, "don't you want to give something to send the gospel to the heathen children? That will be casting your bread upon the waters."

With a half-ashamed twinkle in his eye, he said: "I—I'll give 'em all my crusts!"

You see, Charlie did not like that part of his bread.

Do you give only crusts?

ILLUSTRATIONS.

With children and most grown people, truth is best taught by an apt illustration; but if the illustration is not readily understood, or if it receives too much attention, it is likely to mislead.

A Sunday-school teacher was desiring to teach his class the meaning of faith. Seated by a window, the boys could easily see a boat in a river near by. "Boys," said the teacher, "you see that boat?" "Yes, sir." "If I tell you there is a ham in the bottom of the boat, would you believe?" "Yes, sir." "Well, that is faith."

The next Sunday, wishing to impress the truth by a review, as every teacher should, he said: "Who can tell me what faith is?" All hands went up. "Jimmie you may tell." "A ham in the bottom of a boat!"

Items of Interest.

—The Illinois Supreme Court has declared the whisky trust to be illegal.

—It is reported that an electric railroad is to be built between Chicago and New York.

—Hillsdale (Mich.) College conferred the degree of Doctor of Literature on Will Carleton, the poet.

—Java with her dense population of 20,000,000, has only 20,000 native Christians and thirty missionaries.

—There are claimed to be in the state of Pennsylvania, over 100,000 children, who are receiving no education.

—The Mission to Lepers reports that in India alone there are 100,000 lepers, in Japan 200,000, and in China 300,000.

—Terrence V. Powderly says: "I believe that in five years the sun will shine on a country whose saloons are closed on Sunday." If I had my way, they would be closed not only on Sunday, but every day.

—Germany has another great ship canal in contemplation. It is to connect the Black and Baltic seas, and will be one thousand miles in length. It will require five years to complete it, at a cost of \$100,000,000.

—The *Brewer's Journal* states that English syndicates have \$91,000,000 invested in American breweries, the dividend on which, at 9 per cent. last year, was \$8,190,000, and was paid in gold. Where does our gold go?

—At the International Supreme Lodge of Good Templars it was resolved by unanimous vote, that any party which does not declare war on the liquor traffic, is not worthy the votes of Good Templars. The spirit of John B. Finch is marching on.

—General Campos has notified the Spanish government, that he will need 14,000 to prosecute an offensive campaign against the Cuban insurgents. Both Cuba and Spain, whichever one wins, will be somewhat financially exhausted by this war.

—A boy's industrial association numbering about five hundred has been organized at Wilkesbarre, Pa. These boys were gathered from the streets and the coal mines, and are taught, encouraged, and helped in various ways. One boy whose life hitherto has been spent wholly underground, in a mine, has been converted and is now in school, studying for the ministry.

HOW SORROW UPLIFTS.

In every life that is opened up to the divine purpose God sows the seeds of infinite joy and fruitfulness. If care and sorrow make deep furrows, the seed falls into richer soil and the harvest is the more abundant. God's gifts come under strange disguises, but that is because they are sent to the very highest that is in us, and we must grow into their use before they reveal themselves. That which seems to hold us back from peace and joy is the very thing that makes it possible to attain these precious possessions. The bird would find his wings useless were there no resisting atmosphere to bear him in his heavenward flight, and the soul that had never known the throb of sorrow, the agony of conflict, the weariness of disappointment, would find its aspirations powerless to lift it upward. It is not strength of wing alone, but strength of wing, and resistance of air, that makes possible the skyward flight.—*Lyman Abbott, D. D.*

A PROFITABLE DREAM.

A prosperous member of a church in Scotland was often besought by his pastor to give to the work of evangelizing the poor in Glasgow, but would always reply, "Na, I need it for mysel'."

One night he dreamed that he was at the gate of heaven, which was only a few inches ajar. He tried to get in, but could not, and was in agony at his poor prospect.

The face of his minister appeared, who said, "Sandy, why stand ye glowering there? Why don't ye gae in?"

"I can't; I am too large, and my pocket-book sticks out whichever way I turn."

"Sandy, think how mean ye have been to the Lord's poor, and ye will be small enough to go through the eye of a needle."

Sandy awoke, and began to reduce both his pocket-book and his carnality by giving to Christ's cause. Oh, that we all may get our hearts and pocket-books open!—*Ram's Horn.*

SIX RULES OF LIFE.

1. Never lose any time. Time spent in recreation is not lost.
2. Never err the least from the truth.
3. Never say an ill thing of a person when you can say a good thing. Not only speak charitably, but feel so.
4. Never be irritable or unkind to anyone.
5. Never indulge in luxuries that are not necessary.
6. Do all things with consideration.

Temperance, virtue, and morality in youth and young manhood are the surest guaranties of a happy and contented old age. Build for the future as well as for the present.—*Young Men's Era.*